

Western Pacific Stock Assessment Review Process

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Presentation Topics

- **Background on SA Reviews**
- **Pros, Cons & Ideal Attributes**
- **WPSAR Process (nuts and bolts)**
- **Status and Dissemination**



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Stock Assessment Reviews

Why Do Reviews ?

- responsive to the needs of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
- responsive to MSA and OMB mandates
- ensures stock assessments are best available scientific information



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Provisions in MSA

- **A Council must:**
 - establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability;
 - develop annual catch limits for each of its managed fisheries that may not exceed the fishing level recommendations of its Scientific and Statistical Committee or the peer review process
 - National Standard Guideline 2



OMB Requirements

Consistent with the Data Quality Act:

- Develop a independent peer review process for scientific research
- Sanctioned NOAA Fisheries stock assessment review processes that demonstrate independence are acceptable



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Stock Assessment Reviews

MSA Reauthorization (2006) forced NMFS to review its Review Processes

Findings --- Sanctioned NOAA Peer Review Processes

- STAR – NW/SW stock assessment review process
- SAW – NE stock assessment review process
- SEDAR – SE stock assessment review process
- Center for Independent Experts (CIE)

NO PIR PEER REVIEW PROCESS

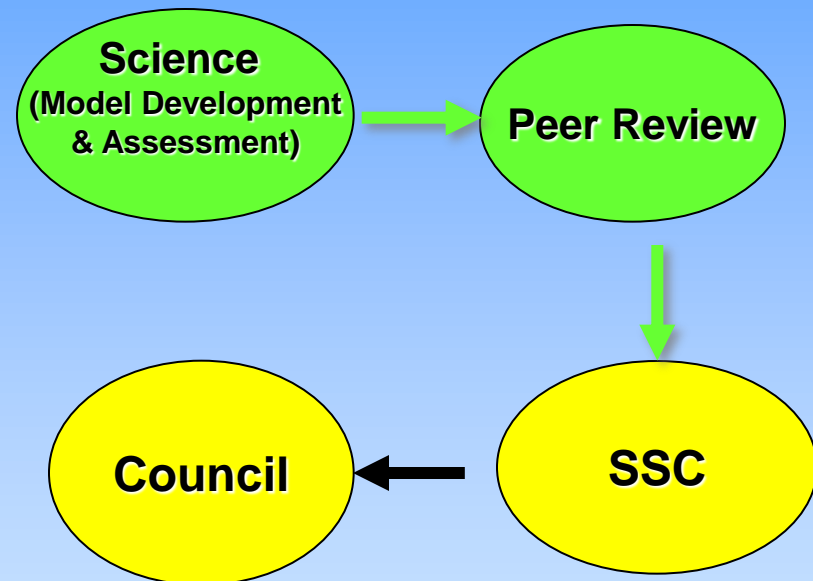


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Stock Assessment Reviews

Road Trip – Review Processes in Action

- Findings --- Potential Problems Existing Review Processes
 - Staff overworked
 - Insufficient funding – reviews are not cheap!
 - Limited if any SSC participation
 - Indecision – likely based on poorly defined TOR



Stock Assessment Reviews

Ideal Attributes and Goals

- Transparent – leads to buy-in
- Provides for SSC involvement
- Understandable & manageable
- Satisfies MSA and OMB requirements (independent)
- Focus on local problems
- Improves quality and reliability of stock assessments
- Fundable
- **Does not burn out local scientists, managers and SSC**



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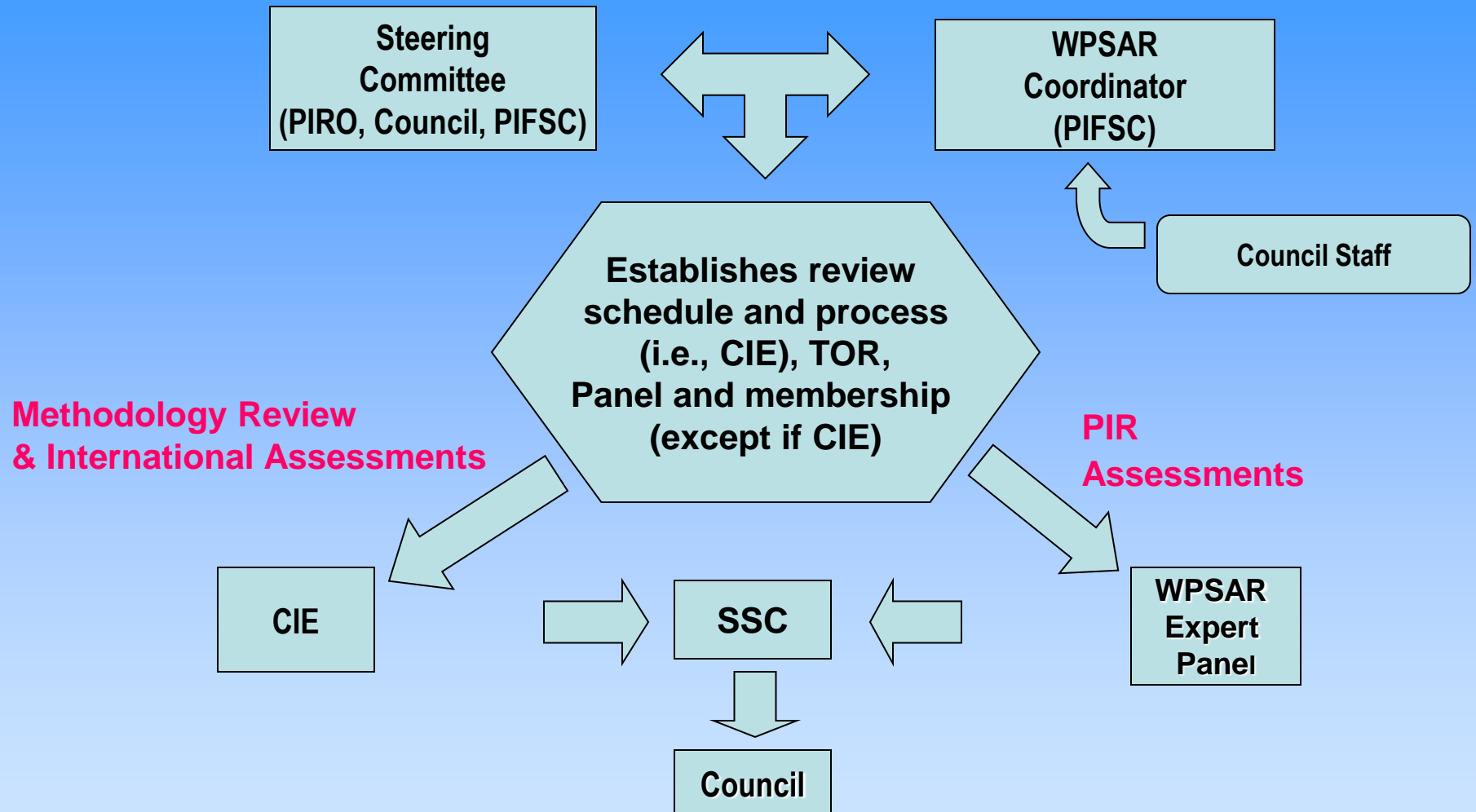
Decision Item

Need to choose a peer review process:

- **CIE Only Process**
 - Independent reviews conducted through NMFS Office of S&T
 - No input from Council
 - Little if any input from SSC
- **SSC Only Process**
 - Does not satisfy Data Quality Act; Independent peer review process
 - Requires development of another review process that ensures independence
 - Addresses local issues
- **Decided on a Two Tier Approach - WPSAR Process**
 - Combined CIE and Expert Panel-SSC process
 - Council is involved in all aspects
 - Conducted collaboratively between Council, PIFSC, and PIRO
 - Addresses local issues
 - WPSAR Panel includes SSC participation and satisfies independence requirement



WPSAR Process



WPSAR

Coordination

- Council-PIFSC-PIRO share responsibilities to create and foster process
- Council sponsors WPSAR process because of FACA
- Council-PIRO-PIFSC share fiscal and logistical responsibilities
- Generally a 2 year planning horizon (established by WPSAR Steering Committee) – can accommodate shorter horizons



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WPSAR

Process

- Steering Committee determines CIE or WPSAR Panel Review
- WPSAR Panel reviews will be conducted between February and August, independent of SSC meeting schedule
- WPSAR Panel reviews up to 2 assessments per review
- Improvements to stock assessment methods explored during the alternate years (e.g. data or modeling workshops)
- Reviews open to public



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WPSAR

PIFSC Responsibilities

- Provides member to WPSAR Steering Committee
- Provides Coordinator to oversee process; assistance from Council staff – B. Richards (*on loan*)
- Coordinator identifies and selects “other” panel members following agreed criteria for reviewer qualifications
- Coordinator develops TORs for each review through consultation with Council
- PIFSC will conduct stock assessments in full accordance with established TOR



WPSAR

SSC Responsibilities

- Assigns one of its members to act as chair of each WPSAR Panel, as well as 1-2 members to review panel
- WPSAR Panel Chair presents Panel report at SSC and Council meetings
- Reviews stock assessments, Panel report and Panel proceedings (consistent with TORs)
- Review constitutes final independent check of stock assessment – and acceptance



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WPSAR

Council Responsibilities

- Provides member to WPSAR Steering Committee
- Prepare meeting notices
- Distribute all pertinent documents, summaries, and minutes
- Assist PIFSC in coordinating meetings/workshops and any other pertinent events
- Publish and maintain file copies of reports



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WPSAR

PIRO Responsibilities

- Provides member to WPSAR Steering Committee
- ODA



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WPSAR

WPSAR Panel Participants

- Chair – SSC member
- 1-2 SSC representatives
- 2-3 Independent reviewers that meet qualifications (public nominated, Academia, Government, etc.)



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Status & Dissemination

- Status
 - Intermittent use of WPSAR Panel – no funding
 - Fully operational WPSAR: Pelagic & Insular - \$354K annually
 - Fully operational WPSAR: Insular only - \$281K annually
 - CIE used extensively
- Past Reviews:
 - WPSAR Panel
 - 2010 Main Hawaiian Islands Bottomfish
 - CIE
 - WCPFC and ISC HMS Stock Assessments
- PIFSC website:



MAHALO



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